HIA Readiness Questions

Note: These questions are intended as a step in the process of evaluating an organization's readiness to conduct a HIA. We intend these questions to be answered as part of a dialogue, not as a test.

A. _What_ is the decision target?

1. What is the problem your organization is trying to address that involves the use of HIA?

2. Is there currently a defined project, plan, or policy proposal that is suitable for health impact assessment? Or is one very likely to be proposed in the immediate future? Please describe the proposal.

What are the health issues?

3. Have neighborhood health issues (defined broadly) been identified as high priorities for community residents or organizations potentially involved in the HIA? If so, which ones?

4. List the most important research questions about the health impacts of the decision that an HIA could answer.
    a.
    b.
    c.
    d.
    e.
    f.
    g.

B. _Why_ is an HIA warranted?

5. Describe the goal that your organization would set for the health impact assessment.

    a. Are there known or suspected health or environmental health impacts of the project, plan, or policy being proposed?

    b. What established community health needs could potentially be addressed by doing an HIA on the project, plan or policy?

    c. Could identification or quantification of health impacts affect public or political support for the plan, its alternatives, or the policy that is being proposed?

6. Will health questions be considered in other parts of the decision making process (e.g., through other regulatory processes such as environmental impact assessment)?

C. _Who_ are decision-makers?

7. Who are the decision makers that you would want to influence with the HIA findings and recommendations?

8. Should public health agencies or other health constituencies be more engaged in the decision-making processes? If so, do you have contacts yet at your county public health department?

Who will be involved in the HIA?

9. Which stakeholders and community members are engaged in or expect to be engaged in the decision-making process? How many community members are likely to engage? How high a priority is this project for them or for the community organization?

   a. What is most needed to achieve community readiness to conduct the HIA?
   • Education about what HIA is?
   • Examples of past HIAs so we know what to expect?
   • Training about how to frame health issues when advocating for our project, plan or policy?
   • Other?

10. Do stakeholders or engaged community members currently have the capacity to participate in the HIA?

   a. Are community members or your organization able to participate in scoping sessions (2 – 3 one to two-hour meetings) to better define research questions?

   b. Are community members or organizations able to participate in a steering committee to provide oversight and direction for the HIA?

   c. Are community organizations able to organize and bring residents to a focus group or are they able to conduct a survey?

   d. Are community members or organizations able to use or communicate the results of a HIA?

11. Who put forward the idea of considering a HIA for this project? How will they be involved in the process or communication of the HIA, if at all?

12. Who would be likely to use the results of the HIA?

D. _When_ will the decision be made?

13. What is the timing of the decision you will use your HIA to influence? How much time would be available for conducting an HIA?

E. _How_ will the HIA be used?

14. How might the results of the HIA be used to impact the decision-making process by any of the stakeholders involved?

How would your organization use the HIA, based on its specific strengths?

15. On a day-to-day basis, how does your organization prioritize the issues that you work on and/or the strategies you use to work on them? (please select all that apply)
    a. We go to our membership for guidance
    b. Staff decides and gets input from committees/ board
    c. We take direction from our national organization
    d. Other – please describe:

16. Would you describe your organization as primarily providing services, training others to advocate for themselves, or advocating for policy change? Or a combination of all three? Please elaborate.